IN THE TITLE

Please change the title to –Branch Predictor with Saturating Counter and Local Branch

History Table with Algorithm for Updating Replacement Fields of Matching Table Entries--.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 15 as follows:

The branch prediction technique described here advantageously helps reduce the misdirect penalty by identifying non-branches, which are predicted taken by the saturation counter, early in the pipe. The decode stage 444 440 may determine whether the instruction which was predicted taken is actually a branch. If it is not, the instructions in the earlier states are removed, the instruction pointer is reset to the address following the non-branch which was misdirected, and the IP control block 436 accepts the prediction from branch direction prediction 100. Note that this mechanism is not necessary for proper functionality, but its presence increases performance and supports the performance/area argument mentioned earlier.